

REMARKS

As an initial matter, the applicants respectfully traverse the election requirement for a lack of showing of a "serious burden on the examiner," as required under MPEP §803.01.

The examiner has identified four species, each applying to a different independent claim. The examiner, however, has not identified any serious burden that would result from examining all the method claims in the application. The examiner, for example, has not identified separate patent office classifications for the different species, nor has the examiner stated that different fields of search would be required under MPEP §808.02. The applicants have already filed a divisional application to pursue the claims in the identified invention Group II (i.e., claims 43-48). The applicants respectfully request that the examiner reconsider the election requirement as to the species identified under Group I. The applicants respectfully assert that all identified species should be examined.

In response to the election/restriction requirement set forth in the July 1, 2005 office action, the applicants hereby provisionally elect Group I (claims 1-42 and 49-50) and Species A (claims 1-16) for continued examination. Separately, the applicants have added, by amendment above, independent claim 51 which is generic to at least species A, B, and C. No new matter has been added.

Dated: August 1, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Paul B. Stephens

Registration No.: 47,970

MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN LLP

233 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 6300

Sears Tower

Chicago, Illinois 60606-6357

(312) 474-6300

Attorney for Applicant